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The Rich Man's Party

What the Tories really want

THE Tories are making a serious effort to win the General Election and they are well prepared for the big battle which is now joined.

In the past weeks they have issued numerous leaflets, pamphlets, broadsheets, speakers notes and other material on issues they will raise still more sharply in the next weeks. They give us the main arguments they will use in the current campaign.

A large staff of well paid experts in the art of devising arguments to confuse electors into voting Conservative is hard at work thinking up new twists to Tory propaganda. The results of their work will be seen in increasing quantity in these vital days.

The big business men who provide the cash for this expensive propaganda hope for a Tory Party victory.

Their expectations have been raised by the defeatist spirit in some Labour circles, a defeatism which is the result of the Cabinet's abondonment of socialism and the progressive policies on which the 1945 election was won.

A Tory victory would menace world peace and human progress. It would stimulate reactionaries everywhere. An all round attack on living standards would follow and the speed of arming for war would be increased.

But Labour movement militants can ensure victory over the Tories by combatting their lies with a positive campaign for peace and socialism.

Would a Tory Goverment increase the danger of War?

THE main issues on which the Tories will fight the General Election are now clear. They intend to concentrate on :

1. Rearmament.
2. The Rising Cost of Living.
3. Housing.

They will blame the Labour Government for every shortcoming. They will claim that they are no longer the old Tory Party of Big Business. But a people's party whose concern is for the nation and not for a wealthy fraction.

As they are extremely sensitive to the well founded charge that they are warmongers they will be most concerned to prove they are not a war party.

Many people know that with Mr. Churchill as Premier, a Tory Government would lead us into an anti-soviet war as satellites of the U.S.A.

Mr. Winston Churchill himself is largely responsible for this knowledge. His notorious Fulton Speech (16 March, 1946) laid down the policy for war preparations against the Soviet Union. More than anyone he is responsible for the Atlantic Pact, the main cause of international tension, and the main instrument for mobilising Western Europe for war.

An attempt to deny the obvious has been made by the Tories in a recently published pamphlet with the title "Pattern for Peace."

It is an important publication. Brig. A. H. Head, M.P., the Tory war expert who is tipped as either Minister of Defence or Minister of War in a new Tory Government is its author.

He starts with the usual unfounded assertion that rearmament is the fault of the Soviet Union, and like all Tories, he praises the U.S.A. for " its leadership " in getting the arms plan started.

" Ever since the last war ended the free world has been faced by a growing threat of eventual domination by Soviet Russia," he says.

And, he repeats his party's line that arms are needed to keep the peace.

" The sooner the West is conventionally rearmed, while still retaining marked atomic superiority, the better will be the chances of avoiding war and reaching a settlement," he says varying Mr. Churchill's " negotiate from strength " theme.

" The forces of the West are widely spread in an attempt to contain Communist expansion from Hong Kong to Malaya and Indo-China, through Persia, the Mediterranean, Yugoslavia, and Germany to Scandinavia."

A low standard of living coupled with the lowered prestige of the White population provide most promising grounds for the spread of Communism in the Middle and Far East.

He repeats the Shinwell myth of huge Soviet land and tactical air forces with 25,000 tanks and 19,000 military aircraft.

Such are the main arguments he uses —and they are typical Tory themes—to justify the crippling burden of rearmament.

At the same time he asserts that economic production—especially of steel—of America and its satellites, is very much greater than that of The Soviet Union.

Soviet oil is " dangerously concentrated in the Baku fields, which are within range and vulnerable to atomic attack by strategic bombers." he says.

Brig. Head thus admits that he would not oppose the atom bomb being dropped. He repeats his adoration of the atom on page 15 of his pamphlet: " current developments in the tactical use of atomic weapons are said to be promising and might, if successful, have far reaching consequences."

Would the Tories welcome a peaceful settlement?

" THE end of the war in Korea, accompanied by some indication of a less intransigent attitude from the Kremlin, would undoubtedly produce a state of public opinion which would press for a reduction of armaments so as to reduce the heavy and progressive burden of taxation."

So Brig. Head views a lessening of international tension as a calamity.

" If democracy is to survive it must be led with sufficient inspiration and determination to convince its followers of the necessity for a sustained acceptance of these burdens until a lasting settlement has been reached."

And of course, the Tories are the boys to give this leadership. Like all Tories he carefully avoids saying what he means by "a lasting settlement." He wants our country to surrender its " sovereign rights," that is its independence to an American dominated Europe via the North Atlantic War Pact organisations.

To defend democracy he wants to rearm the Nazis Fascist Portugal is already an Atlantic Pact member. Brig. Head would bring in Franco Spain, Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Antony Eden, the deputy Tory Party leader, recently urged Mr. Morrison to send a gun-boat to convoy British oil tankers through the Suez Canal.

This pamphlet's author also complains about the Egyptian attitude, and continues " Persia has flagrantly torn up the oil agreement."

Most difficulties in the Middle East arise because these countries realise " they can now twist the lion's tail with impunity. Indeed with only about one and a half divisions in the Middle East, our weakness is only too apparent," adds.

Brig. Head wants a firmer policy. Mr. Eden wants gun-boats in the Suez. Both these leading Tories would start new wars of imperial conquest.

In Parliament the Tories consistently press for stronger measures to smash the Malayan Peoples' Movement. They say to allow Malaya to become Communist

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would endanger world peace.

Brig. Head lets the cat out of the bag. "Malaya, a key strategic area, is also of great economic value, since the export of rubber is one of our main dollar earners."

The loss of Korea would have been a serious blow to Western prestige and thus intensified unrest and demands elsewhere, he adds.

At home the Tories would use the arms plan as an excuse to purge communists and progessives from all kinds of responsible jobs. Sir Waldron Smithers, M.P., has consistently demanded such action in Parliament. His views are now endorsed in this official Tory pamphlet.

What do the Tories say about the cost of living?

EVERY new rise in the cost of living is greeted by the Tories as another example of "socialist inefficiency." They persist in calling the Labour Government a "Socialist Government."

Their proposals which amount to giving private enterprise a completely free hand in trade and industry would worsen the people's plight.

The fact that the rising cost of living is a result of the foreign policy which they say the government has taken over from them does not deter the Tory demagogues.

"The rising cost of living is the rising cost of socialism" they assert in a slogan adorning the front page of their latest broad sheet.

This sheet suggests that Mr. Dalton and the nationalisation of coal, gas, transport, electricity and steel are the cause of rising prices.

"Mr. Dalton's policy of inflation" says this "Popular Pictorial" broadsheet, caused the first post war price rises from 1946-48.

That assertion diverts attention from some unpleasant facts for the Tories. These price rises were the result of President Truman's action in cancelling all controls in the U.S.A.

U.S. big business sent prices soaring. Because of Britain's close tie-up with America our prices went up too.

To admit that is inconvenient to the Tories who also want to end controls here. "The existence of a network of physical controls is a threat to freedom" they assert in yet another pamphlet entitled "Employment."

Using Korea as a synonym for rearmament, the broadsheet denies that this is the cause of higher prices. "The argument that that 'It's all due to Korea' just doesn't stand up" it pretends.

So another inconvenient fact is deliberately denied. American stock piling of saw materials for war purposes and rearmament, as everyone knows, is the main cause of higher prices.

The Government's own rearmament programme, which the Tories say is inadequate, will send prices higher. Our close tie-up with America, the bans on East-West trade—which the Tories welcome—all help to keep up prices.

Will the Tories build more houses?

DESPITE fierce platform opposition the delegates to last year's Tory Party conference adopted a motion putting 300,000 as their yearly target for new houses when, and if, they again became the government.

Will they build that number? What kind of houses will they build? The answer to these questions is given in a much boosted pamphlet "Housing" they published in March 1951.

It was written by Ernest Marples M.P., a master builder, who was also put up to make the main housing speech in a subsequent House of Commons debate.

Rearmament is to take priority over everything. "There is one overriding priority—and that is Defence. Everyone knows it was impossible to build many houses during the War because of Defence requirements.

"The rearmament drive, together with stockpiling by other countries of important raw materials, is already causing difficulties in industry. It would be misleading to ignore these factors, and the Conservative Party is well aware of these problems."

Mr. Marples wrote this early this year before the rearmament drive and U.S. stockpiling had started. The position is much worse now. With arms taking priority there is no possibility of a 300,000 annual output. There is little chance of even building up to the government's present 200,000 yearly total.

Mr. Marples says building costs could be kept down. One method is the old Tory proposal to speed up the worker on the job, another is to get more building materials supplied.

By building large stocks of timber, he says, we could reach a position where we could refuse to buy more from abroad unless the price was cut.

One way of getting supplies is from Britain's traditional sources of the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies. The Tories clamoured for a ban on the delivery of machinery bought and paid for by the Soviet Union, they are in full agreement with the new U.S. imposed bans on East-West trade. That means less timber for Britain and less houses.

So both their arms and foreign policy makes the construction of more and cheaper built houses more remote.

But the Tories will build cheaper quality and inferior houses. He proposes to cut the size of " the present Ministry of Health house of 1,050 feet " by a house of only 850 feet.

" Compared with this, the average size of a post-war house in America is estimated by an expert who builds there is about 700 sq. feet," he says making at the same time an unconscious comment on the American way of life he adores.

Before the war council houses averaged about 800 feet, he adds. We then endured life under a Tory government. Private speculative builders covered the country with jerry built houses for sale.

The real aim of the Tory Party today is to give the private speculative builder free scope to build more houses for sale at high prices. They would cut to a minimum the building of houses by local authorities to rent. And, the country's economic difficulties which stem from the arms and foreign policy of Tories and right wing labour leaders makes it certain that fewer houses, not more, will be built by a Tory Government.

What would the Tories do about prices ?

LORD Woolton in the August Tory Speaker's note dealing with home affairs admits that " The Conservative Party has got no patent medicine by way of a policy."

He should have told that to the authors of the broadsheet, for they say they have. Writing on the prices issue they say " If anyone asks you what could the Conservatives do about it ? " here's your answer. The Conservatives would :—

1. " Call a halt to Socialism, thus restoring confidence, business sense and financial realism at the centre.

" 2. End the " easy come, easy go " attitude of Government towards the people's money by cutting down expenditure.

" 3. In consultation with the trade unions, try to work out an incentive bonus scheme to step up production."

They would also end state bulk buying of food and give its purchase and supply to private speculators to profiteer at the people's expense.

Of course Lord Woolton is right when he says the Tories have no medicine to cure the evil of rising prices. Their broadsheet's points show they have nothing but quack remedies which will make the disease worse.

Lord Woolton is representative of the very big businessmen who are the real power behind the Tory Party. He is a big businessman—a very big businessman and he is also boss of the Party machine.

When he talks of restoring confidence to the " Centre " he means restoring to the " City of London," the centre of finance and usury, full power to make record profits. That's why Tories want to end bulk buying, rationing and controls.

What government expenditure will the Tories cut if they become the government ? It will not be on rearmament. They have told us that they will speed up rearming.

They will cut the food subsidies and cut down expenditure of social services, including health and education.

They will make these cuts excusing their deeds with the flimsy argument that those who have money should pay full price for subsidised foodstuffs.

Similar arguments are being peddled to justify the charges for hospital beds and other health services they intend to impose. Mr. Gaitskell's decision to charge for specs and teeth has helped them in their propaganda.

Their last point about incentive bonus schemes to step up production is merely the old Tory demand on the workers to work harder and longer—so that the rich man's profits may rise.

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